

Tianjin Binhai Library

Tianjin Binhai New Area Library^[2] (Chinese: 天津滨海新区图书馆), nicknamed **The Eye**, is a library in Tianjin, China. It is part of the Binhai Cultural Center, being one of its five central attractions.^[3]

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Architecture and description

The five-level library has a total space of 33,700 square metres.^[4] It features floor-to-ceiling, terraced bookshelves able to hold 1.2 million books,^[1] and a large, luminous sphere in the center that serves as an auditorium with a capacity of 110 people. The library is nicknamed 'The Eye' because the sphere, which appears like an iris, can be seen from the park outside through an eye-shaped opening.^[5]

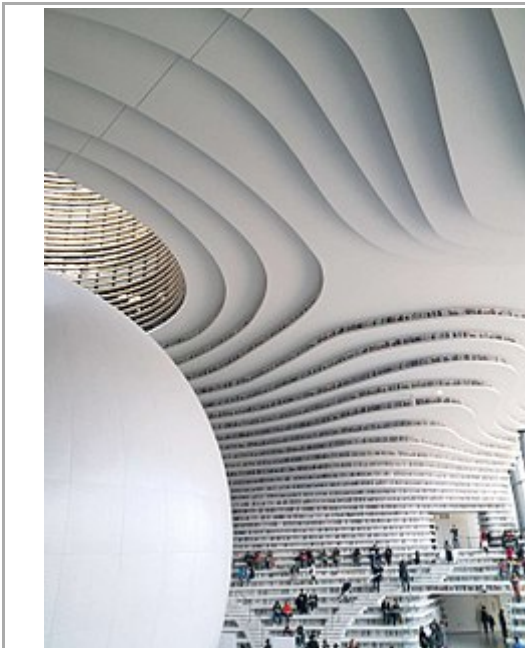
In the first week after opening day, approximately 10,000 people a day came, causing queues outside.

The first and second floors contain mainly lounge areas and reading rooms. The floors above have computer rooms, meeting rooms, and offices. There are also two rooftop patios. Because of a decision to complete the library quickly and a conflict with what was officially approved, the main atrium cannot be used for book storage; the rooms providing access to the upper tiers of shelving were not built and book spines were printed onto the backs of the shelf space for the opening-day photographs.^[5]

Construction

The library was designed by the Rotterdam-based architectural firm MVRDV^[5] along with the Tianjin Urban Planning and Design Institute (TUPDI), a group of local architects. Because of a tight construction schedule by the local government, the project went from preliminary drawings to its doors opening within three years.^[6] It opened in October 2017.

Tianjin Binhai New Area Library




Floor to ceiling bookshelves shaped as an eye.

Country	China
Established	2017
Location	District of Binhai in the Municipality of Tianjin
Branches	1
Collection	
Size	1.2 million books ^[1]
Map	
A map of the Binhai New Area in Tianjin, China. The map shows a network of roads and water bodies. A blue location pin is placed in the center of the map, indicating the location of the Tianjin Binhai New Area Library. The map is labeled with 'Binhai New Area' and 'Dagu'.	

Notes and references

1. "China's breathtaking, futuristic library in Tianjin is every book lover's dream" (<http://www.newsweek.com/tianjin-binhai-library-710828>). *Newsweek*. 14 November 2017.
2. "滨海新区图书馆"十一"开放" (<http://www.bhwh.gov.cn/home/content/detail/id/3952.html>). 文化随行(Official Digital Platform of Binhai New Area). 1 October 2017.
3. "Tianjin's new library looks out of this world" (<http://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/tianjin-china-library/index.html>). CNN Travel. 22 November 2017.
4. <https://www.mvrdv.nl/projects/tianjin-binhai-library>
5. Becky Davis (16 November 2017). "China's futuristic library: More fiction than books" (<http://www.thejakartapost.com/life/2017/11/16/chinas-futuristic-library-more-fiction-than-books.html>). France24. AFP.
6. "Tianjin Binhai Library" (<https://www.mvrdv.nl/en/projects/tianjin-binhai-library>). MVRDV.

External links

-  Media related to [Tianjin Binhai Library](#) at Wikimedia Commons
- [Official page](http://www.bhwhzx.cn/index_ts.html) (http://www.bhwhzx.cn/index_ts.html) of the library at Binhai Cultural Center (in Chinese)
- [Image gallery](http://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/tianjin-china-library/index.html?gallery=1) (<http://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/tianjin-china-library/index.html?gallery=1>) at CNN

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